

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2388

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, IT, TU, NATO

SUBJECT: CYPRUS

1. DURING CONVERSATION FEBRUARY 18 POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL
DUCCI COMMENTED TO DCM ON THE CYPRUS SITUATION. DUCCI WHO HAD
ADVANCED THE IDEA OF AN EC NINE EMMISARY TO CYPRUS SAID THAT HIS
PHILOSOPHY HAD BEEN TO DEVELOP AN EC NINE APPROACH TO CYPRUS
PARALLEL TO THAT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ATTEMPTING
TO "UNLOCK"THE SITUATION IN THE HOPES THAT SOME ACTION WOULD EVOLVE
TO CONVINCE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS THAT PROGRESS WAS BEING
MADE. DUCCI SAID THE EC NINE FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD BARELY
BEGUN TO DISCUSS CYPRUS WHEN WORD CAME OF THE TURKISH ANNOUNCE-
MENT CONCERNING A SEPARATE POLITICAL ENTITY IN THE OCCUPIED AREA
OF CYPRUS. THIS ENDED THE DISCUSSION. AT THE MOMENT THERE IS
LITTLE IF ANYTHING THE EC CAN DO.

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2. DUCCI SAID THAT TURKISH AMBASSADORS AROUND THE CIRCUIT HAVE BEEN DELIVERING AN AIDE MEMOIRE CALLING THE ATTENTION OF THE OTHER ALLIES TO THE FACT THAT UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY HAS BEEN DISRUPTED FOR REASONS HAVING NOTHING TO DO WITH NATO. THE TURKISH AIDE MEMOIRE CONCLUDES ON A RATHER SOMBER NOTE. DUCCI SAID THAT THE ESSENCE OF THE TURKISH PAPER WAS THAT IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION ON ASSISTANCE TURKEY MUST RECONSIDER ITS RELATIONS WITH NATO. IN PASSING, HE NOTED THAT THE DE BORCH-GRAVE PIECE IN NEWSWEEK DEVELOPED THE TURKISH THESIS FURTHER.

3. ACCORDING TO THE POLITICAL DIRECTOR THE TURKS ARE APPARENTLY TRYING IN SOME WAY TO EXERT PRESSURE ON THE U.S. CONGRESS IN SUPPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION. THE ITALIANS WARNED THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION IS A VERY DELICATE AREA AND THE TURKS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS EXTREMELY RISKY BUSINESS. THE ITALIANS FURTHER SAID THAT THEY WOULD NOT REPLY TO THE TURKISH AIDE MEMOIRE DIRECTLY BUT WOULD RESPOND AT THE NAC IN BRUSSELS WHEN THE TURKISH MATTER COMES UP AGAIN.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE NATO ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM THE TURKS HAVE ASKED THE ALLIES FOR SUPPORT AT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL WHEN THE CYPRUS ISSUE COMES UP. IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE TURKS HAVE APPROACHED THE DEPARTMENT BUT ACCORDING TO DUCCI THEY PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING FOUR POINTS:

(A) ON THE PROCEDURAL QUESTION THEY WANT ALLIED SUPPORT TO PERMIT THE TURKISH CYPRIOT REPRESENTATIVE TO SPEAK. (DUCCI NOTED THAT THE TURKS WERE NOT SENDING DENKTASH AND THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY IS THINKING OF INSTRUCTING ITS UN MISSION TO SUPPORT THE TURKISH PROCEDURAL REQUEST).

(B) THE TURKS ASKED ITALIAN SUPPORT IN OPPOSING ANY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS ON THE SOVIET PATTERN. (THE ITALIANS AGREE WITH THIS POINT).

(C) THE TURKS SEEK SUPPORT FOR A REJECTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UN FACT FINDING MISSION. (THE ITALIANS ALSO AGREE ON THIS.)

(D) THE TURKS WANT THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO RENEW ITS APPEAL FOR CONTINUING CONVERSATIONS. DUCCI POINTED OUT THIS IS THE POSITON OF THE EC NINE BUT THE SITUATION IS QUITE UNCERTAIN. HT NOTED HOWEVER THAT THE TURKISH ANNOUNCEMENT WAS ONLY THAT A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WOULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE TIME BEING. DUCI
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SAID THERE MIGHT BE ENOUGH LEEWAY IF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DELIBERATIONS DRAGGED ON TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. IN ANY CASE THE ITALIANS ARE MOST CONCERNED TO KEEP THE SOVIETS OUT OF CYPRUS AND ARE SOMEWHAT DISTURBED BY THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SOVIET EXPERTS WILL BE SENT TO HELP GREEK CYPRIOTS.

5. BASED ON THIS CONVERSATION IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE ITALIANS

ARE CONCERNED OVER THE SITUATION INVOLVING GREECE, TURKEY
AND CYPRUS BUT SEE LITTLE HOPE FOR A QUICK SOLUTION. THEY SEEM
ANXIOUS TO AVOID ANY PRECIPITATE ACTION BY TURKEY OR OTHERS
THAT COULD CAUSE IRREMEDIAL DAMAGE TO THE ALLIANCE. VOLPE

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